

Ingraham, Mrs Sara L.

[Charleston, S.C.], 1919-1920

Highly of Paul Jones medal

✓ 9 darts

WPC art 5





Copy

Charleston, S.C.,
May 27th. 1919

Mrs. Geo. H. Ingraham,
Present.

My Dear Mrs. Ingraham:-

I have been much interested in inspecting
the Paul Jones medal.

The inscription is as follows:

On front:

" Joanni Paulo Jones Classis praefecto.
" Comitia Americana".

On the reverse:

" Hostium navibus captis aut fugatis.
" Ad Oram Scoliae ~~XX~~lll Sept.

M D C C L X X V I I I

"Dupre' F "

Translation is as follows:

On front:

" To John Paul Jones, Admiral of Fleet,
" The American Congress."

On the reverse: " The enemy's ships having been captured
or put to flight.

" Off the coast of Scotland, 23 Sept. 1779.

Designed by (fecit?) Dupre'.

Comitia is properly translated "Congress" I suppose. The word was used to designate the Assembly of the Roman tribes for the election of officers and other important matters, and more generally any similar Assembly.

The "F" after the name "Dupre' " on the reverse side of the medal, no doubt indicates "fecit" (designed).

I am glad to have deciphered it for you.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Wm Hy Parker

W H P / C L D

Box 357,

Charleston, S.C.,

May 24th. 1920.

My dear Mr. Noe:-

Mr. Edward D. Adams suggested my writing you in regard to the medal awarded John Paul Jones by the American Congress in 1787, and which I have, in my possession. It descended to my husband, from his grandfather, Nathaniel Ingraham; who was Paul Jones' friend and officer. He ^(Ingraham) was with him, in the fight between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapes, in 1779.

Paul Jones, when dying, gave his medal to Nathaniel Ingraham. It has never been out of the family's hands since then. (I married my cousin, Capt Ingraham--forty years my senior.)

I offered the medal to Secretary Daniels for the Navy. He is very desirous of having it, but says, that Congress at this session, has reduced the appropriation for the Navy by some thing like two hundred million dollars, and I do not believe they would make an appropriation of a sum that would be adequate. The medal is of such historic value and interest". &c. &c..

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan was interested in the medal. Wanted the Country to have it. Suggested my writing to Mr. Adams. Said: If the Country did not acquire it, would I let him have it.

When I found the medal might have to go into promiscuous keeping, I told Mr. Morgan he could have it. Last week he wrote: He had been obliged to reconsider his proposition.

Can you recommend any course by which I can realize the full market value of the relic? And would you

undertake to negotiate the sale of it for me, and what would be your terms?

The medal is so darkened with Age, that it looks like bronze. I am sending you the photographs, and translations of inscriptions on it.

I do not know ~~the~~ what the medal is worth, but was told by an antique dealer, here, in the City, that he had sold a miniature of Lafayette, not long ago, for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.); and that the original John Paul Jones medal should bring twenty-five thousand, if any thing.

Will you kindly let me hear from you, and help me if you can!

Most truly your,

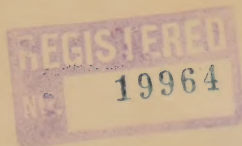
Sara L. Ingraham

Mr. Sydney B. Noe, ~~Secretary~~
Secretary American Numismatic Society,
156 th. Street, New York, City.

From Ingraham, Box 357,
Charleston, South Carolina.



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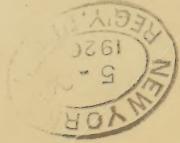


Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary American Numismatic Society,
#156th. Street,
New York, New York.

Personal.

RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED

RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED



May 29th, 1920

Mrs. Sara L. Ingraham
Box 357, Charleston, S.C.

Dear Madam:

I have your letter of May 24th but I am rather at a loss to advise you.

A medal, such as you describe, should of course go to some important historical collection. You state that it has darkened with age, from this fact I judge that the medal is in silver. Is this correct? If not, could you have it weighed at some jewelers and let me know the weight? It seems to me that the valuation given you by the dealer in Charleston is very high, but I must have your response regarding the medal before I can advise you further.

Very truly yours,

SPN/VIE

Secretary

Charleston,
South Carolina,
June 5th.1920.

My dear Mr.Noe:-

Your letter of May 29th. reached me. Thank you

for it.

answering your question in regard to the medal:

It is the gold medal awarded by the American Congress, to John Paul
in 1787. Thomas Jefferson, who was Minister at Paris, at that

time, was instructed to have the medal struck, in that City.

The die, from which it was struck, is still in Paris---so our Depart-
ment of State informs me.

I am enclosing the weight of medal, as you
request me to. The jeweler says: there is some alloy in the medal,
That all gold, was never used. (This information, for what it is worth)
He also informed me, that the medal could be polished, and must have
been considered all gold when it was first struck.

I agree with you: The medal should go to
some historical collection--or to the country. I made it available
to Secretary Daniels--after his request, for me to do so-- and later,
received the enclosed reply . I am rich in historical
souvenirs of the Past, but not, in the coin of the realm. If I
waited for Congress to appropriate, I might "wait for ever"--as
my cousin, Mr. Gaillard Hunt, says. He is in the State Department--
was Chief of Mass/ Division, Congressional Library-- is, writer,
and historian.

I am enclosing photographs of my uncles's
ing medal, think they might ^{an of} interest you. He was Nathaniel Ingraham's
son--Commodore Duncan Nathaniel Ingraham. The medal was awarded
him, for his exploit in the Martin Koszta affair, in 1852.

If you can aid me to dispose of the John Paul Jones medal---to some responsible party, if possible--- I shall be very glad.

I have no sentiment in regard to the medal.

Paul Jones was only a friend of my husband's grandfather.(I married my cousin, Capt.Ingraham ---forty years my senior.)But I should like to see it go into responsible hands; for it has never left our family's custody, since Paul Jones gave it to Nathaniel Ingraham.

Will you kindly return Secretary Daniels' letter!

If the photographs of Commodore Ingraham^{medal} interest you, please accept them!

Most truly yours,

(Mrs.) Sara L. Ingraham

Mr.Sydney P.Noë,
Secretary of American Numismatic Society,
Broadway,at 156th. Street,
New York, City.

From Sara L. Ingraham,
Box 357, Charleston.S.C..

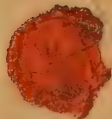
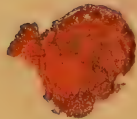


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Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary of American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, at 156th. Street,
New York, . New York..

The money is

RETURNED TO SENDER







June 10th, 1920

Mrs. Sara L. Ingraham
P.O. Box 357
Charleston, S.C.

Dear Ma'am:

I have your letter of June 5th and I am returning, herewith, the letter of Secretary Daniels as you requested, together with the letter from Mr. Morgan's librarian.

Please accept my thanks for having obtained the weight of the piece and for the photographs which you have placed at my disposal. I shall take up this question with one of our members who may be able to offer some advice, but I am frankly sceptical of being able to sell the piece for you. Most of the Historical Societies would be glad to accept so important a medal but they are not in a position to purchase it. We have had a number of gold medals of this kind, although hardly so important, offered to us at a very slight increase over the bullion value of the metal. In consequence, as I wrote you in my last letter, the valuation given you by the Charleston antiquarian is very greatly exaggerated.

I hope to write you again within a few days, but I very much fear that I shall not be able to secure for you an offer which you would consider.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

SEN/1

June 12th, 1920

Mrs. Sara L. Ingraham
P.O.Box 357
Charleston, S.C.

Dear Madam:

Referring again to your letter of June 5th, I am under the necessity of writing that I am unable to aid you in your effort to find a purchaser for the gold medal awarded to John Paul Jones.

I have talked with one of our members about the matter, but we neither of us know of a single individual who would be likely to give more than \$500 for this medal. Last year the gold medal given to Commodore Edward Prebble was sold at auction in New York for about \$1500, but the man who purchased it at that time has since died. I regret very much that I am unable to send you a more satisfactory response.

Very respectfully yours,

SPN/E

Secretary

Charleston,
South Carolina,
June 16th. '20

My dear Mr. Noe:-

Thank you sincerely for your two letters, which I received; and for your wish to aid me.

I do not think 20000.00, or 25000.00 too much for the Paul Jones medal. The dealer, here, sold a miniature of Lafayette for 10000.00. And a table of his, for 2000.00 not so very long ago.

There are a great many souvenirs of Lafayette, and I know of none, belonging to Paul Jones, except this medal.

Mr. Morgan did not criticize my price of 20000.00, for the medal. Though he said he could give only 10000.00 for it. And then---he changed his mind, when I accepted it(for I wanted to know the relic was in responsible hands) .

Please tell me, if you think (as Mr. Adams suggested) the medal could be advertised (not put up at auction), and then any offer made, could be accepted, or rejected at will?

And would you undertake this procedure for me---at a percentage, as Mr. Adams also suggested.

It does seem very little, in America, not to acquire Paul Jones' medal. He, the hero, who first made it possible to have an America--The Land of The Free.

I believe France--if she were offered the medal--would gladly acquire it at a large sum (Borrowed of America!) . For she --as a unit-- is more of an idealist, than Americans.

I sent Mr. Wilson photographs of the medal--I knew he would appreciate it. But Mr. Tumulty wrote me, Mr. Wilson was so sick, at the time, that he could enjoy nothing.

If you can't help me, I will just have to wait for the next Congress--as Mr. Daniels suggests---and see what idealism exists among its members.

I have a great many coins you might be interested in. One, struck in Otho's time. (I send you a memorandum, written by Nathaniel Ingraham. Please return.)

Nathaniel Ingraham (my great Uncle by blood and grand father by marriage) traveled all over the world in his own ships. He brought many coins, and other relics to this country.

He was with Paul Jones when he died. It was then, that Paul Jones gave him the medal.

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I also have a walet, that George Washington gave my great grand father. It has his name, engraved on it, in silver--on the little lock. It was given in 1762.

But I am taking up your time!
Hoping you can help me, I am,

Most cordially yours,

Lara L. Ingraham

Mr. Sydney F. Noe,
Secretary of American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, and 156th. Street,
New York, City.

June 29th, 1920.

Mrs. Sara L. Ingraham,
Box 357,
Charleston, S. C.

My dear Miss Ingraham:-

I have your letter of June 16th, and I am returning the accompanying documents.

It may be that you are entirely correct in thinking twenty thousand dollars not too much for the Paul Jones medal, but I am quite at a loss to know where to turn to find any one who would pay that amount for it. My personal opinion is that advertising would be of but slight value because the chances are ten thousand to one against your being able to attract the attention of some one interested enough and at the same time able to acquire the piece. I fear that most of our "men of means" have not enough appreciation of the importance of things of this kind.

The collection of coins which you describe must indeed contain many interesting things, and I am sure you must also greatly prize the wallet given to your great grandfather by General Washington.

I wish very much that I had any suggestions which could prove of value to you at the present time. I can only promise to keep the matter before me, and to let you know of any one who would be interested in acquiring this medal. As I think I wrote you, I should like to see it find a permanent home in one of the great public collections of our country, but unless a donor could be found who would be willing to advance the amount necessary to purchase it, I fear this is out of the question. Please feel that I shall be only too glad to do anything I may to be of service to you.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary.